

U.S. not to execute hijack suspect

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Justice Department Sunday assured West Germany it would not seek the death penalty for a suspect in the 1985 TWA hijacking, clearing the way for the man's extradition to the United States from West Germany. The suspect, Mohamed Al Hamadi, 22, was arrested by West German customs officials last week. He is wanted in the United States on charges of murder and air piracy in the June 1985 hijacking, in which a U.S. Navy diver was killed. Under West German law, he could not be extradited to the United States for trial unless Washington guaranteed he would not be executed. Hijacking and murder are subject to the death penalty under U.S. law. A Justice Department spokesman said the United States would waive the death penalty because it was the only way Hamadi could be brought to trial for the murder of navy diver Robert Stethem.

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PSP, Amal fighters clash in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen fought gunbattles in west Beirut Sunday after an assassination attempt on two leftist leaders on the city's southern outskirts. Gunfire interspersed by rocket-propelled grenade blasts echoed across Beirut's western sector after nightfall in the fighting between Druze warlord Walid Junhah's PSP and Justice Minister Nabil Berri's Amal militia. Police said the fighting centred on two suburban districts and three seaside residential neighbourhoods. The target of the assassination ambush was Mustafa Saad, leader of the Nasrati popular organisation whose Popular Liberation Army militia controls the predominantly Sunni Muslim port of Sidon in South Lebanon. Saad was heading back to Sidon from a meeting with another Nasrati faction, the Arab Socialist Union, in west Beirut

Sudan refuses military help for Chad combatants

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi said Sunday both the Chad government and Libya-backed Chadian rebels had asked to use military facilities in Sudan but his government refused to respond. He told a news conference that the Foreign Ministry in Khartoum was working with Nigeria and Algeria in an effort to mediate an end to the fighting in neighbouring Chad. The conflicting parties in the Chad war requested military facilities from Sudan, but we refused to respond because of Sudan's principle is to see a united and stable Chad free from all foreign troops and our position is to achieve this goal peacefully," he said. Mr. Mahdi said continued fighting in Chad would have negative effects on Sudan with more refugees pouring across the border into the country.

Iranian aide in Paris for talks

PARIS (R) — An Iranian official arrived in Paris Sunday for talks with the French government expected to focus on ways of improving ties between the two countries. Ali Ahani of the Iranian Foreign Ministry is the first Iranian official to visit Paris since France expressed concern at slow progress towards release of French hostages held by pro-Iranian Muslim gunmen in Lebanon. The government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac hopes to normalise relations with Iran in the expectation that Tehran will press for the release of the kidnapped Frenchmen. Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, expressing disappointment that only one hostage was released last month, said France "was expecting more from the Iranians." The Iranian embassy in Paris said last week that Mr. Ahani would bring messages for Mr. Chirac and Mr. Raimond and would discuss "problems hindering normalisation of the two countries' ties."

Soviet spaceship docks with Mir

MOSCOW (R) — A space cargo transporter carrying supplies for a new mission docked with the Soviet space station Mir Sunday, the official Soviet News Agency TASS reported. It said the two unnamed craft docked using automatic equipment and the Progress-27 cargo ship supplied fuel and "other expendable materials" to Mir. Cosmonauts Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solov'yov spent 125 days in space during the first mission on Mir last year. The station will eventually be the heart of a huge permanently-manned orbiting laboratory.

9 killed in Dubai road accident

DUBAI (R) — Eight girls aged nine to 21 were killed, together with their Indian driver, when their vehicle hit a lampost at high speed in the Gulf Emirate of Dubai, hospital officials said Sunday. Five other girls were injured, they added. Al Khaleej newspaper said the girls, all citizens of the United Arab Emirates, were returning from a wedding party.

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Iraq reports its troops in full control of southern front

Baghdad says Iranian claims are attempt to cover up huge losses

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denied Sunday a claim by Iran that its troops had reached the outskirts of the southern city of Basra.

A high-ranking military official said tens of thousands of Iranian troops had been annihilated, and the Iraqi forces are in full control of it now."

The official said: "The Iranian claims are nothing but an attempt to cover up the huge losses of their invading forces east of Basra."

"We swear by God that we will make death and destruction your (Iranian) daily provisions for the continued war and aggression on our borders and for shelling residential areas," it said.

It said eight people were killed and 28 wounded Sunday in Iranian artillery attacks on Basra while an Iranian air raid on the northern town of Aqrah killed one person and injured six others.

Iranian artillery and air attacks have killed 129 civilians and injured 637 in the past nine days, according to Baghdad communiques.

The communiques said an

Iranian division was wiped out in fighting Saturday night and Sunday on the central sector, where Iran opened a second front on Wednesday, seizing two small hills.

It said Iraqi warplanes flew 296 sorties Sunday and helicopter gunships carried out 206 combat missions against targets inside Iran and on troop concentrations and positions. All the aircraft returned safely.

The raids including targets in Qom, Esfahan, Tabriz, Dezfoul, Mashed Soleyman, Sanandaj, Ilam, Shahabad (now called Islamabad-e Gharb), Borujerd, Nahavand and Malyan, it said. Esfahan and Dezfoul were hit twice.

The communiques added that Iraqi warplanes also raided the Qotur Railway bridge connecting Iran and Turkey. The bridge had been attacked three times earlier in the war.

Military analysts said Sunday the bitter fighting in the southern front could prove a crucial battle in the six-year-old war.

Iranian top war spokesman Ali

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani claimed Tehran's forces on captured islands in the Shatt Al Arab waterway here within 500 metres of Basra's suburbs.

Iraq also claimed 27,000 Iraqi troops had been killed or wounded and 1,750 taken prisoner in the 10-day-old offensive, codenamed "Karbala-5."

Iraq has reported killing tens of thousands of Iranians, but neither side has given its own losses and there is no independent confirmation of the figures.

A traveller who returned to Baghdad Sunday from Basra said the southern Iraqi port with a population of one million was under heavy Iranian bombardment. He said casualties appeared to be high with houses and other buildings destroyed.

Mr. Rafsanjani has said the offensive does not aim at seizing Basra itself, but is a prelude to a decisive move to end the war.

Iraq appears to be following a strategy of island-hopping up the Shatt Al Arab to coincide with a drive along its northern bank.

Israel admits killing Irish soldier

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's military chief-of-staff apologised to the United Nations Sunday for "the shameful mistake" that resulted in the killing of an Irish soldier.

"It's a shameful mistake, I can't be proud of it," said Lt.-Gen. Moshe Levy. Speaking on Israel Radio, Gen. Levy said he had received the findings from a probe of the shooting of the Irish soldier but was still studying the report.

Israel has admitted that its tank fire, directed against a group of Lebanese commandos, mistakenly killed the Irishman on Jan. 10 in the South Lebanon.

18 hurt in new 'camps war' flare-up

BEIRUT (R) — Gunfire rang out across the Lebanese capital as Palestinian commandos and Lebanese militiamen resumed tank and artillery duelling at two refugee camps in the southern suburbs.

Amal militia sources said 14 civilians were injured when Palestinian gunners in Druze-held mountains east of the city shelled the mainly Shi'ite Muslim districts

doubt about it," said Gen. Levy, speaking on Israel Radio. He said he would still have to determine whether legal measures should be taken against those involved.

The officer in charge has been removed from the area, the radio said.

Israel's relations with the nine-nation United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) have long been strained. Israel claims the peacekeepers are unable to prevent guerrilla presence along the Israeli border and maintains its own troops in South Lebanon.

BONN (R) — The United States is preparing to intervene in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq if Iranian troops capture the strategic city of Basra, the West German weekly magazine Spiegel reported Sunday.

However, in the United States, Secretary of State George Shultz ordered heavier police guard in Jerusalem Sunday following Saturday's incident, telling his cabinet he was worried about escalating violence in the war.

Spiegel said a senior U.S. Marine officer held talks with the Egyptian leadership last week about a possible intervention by Washington.

The magazine quoted Egyptian sources as saying the Pentagon was preparing to send up to six divisions and 600 fighter planes, most of which were based in Europe, into the Gulf region.

Spiegel said the U.S. aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy had been ordered to head for the Strait of Hormuz while three extra U.S. Air Force squadrons had been transferred to Turkey.

Zhao: China's policies will not change after Hu

PEKING (R) — China's acting Communist Party General-Secretary Zhao Ziyang said Sunday the removal of party chief Hu Yaobang would have no effect on Chinese policies and said fears of political instability were unwarranted.

Mr. Zhao reiterated his appeal to Iran to participate in the summit.

"Iran's participation would not only help in finding ways to end the Gulf war, but also contribute positively to the discussion on various vital issues," he said.

Mr. Zhao said his report to the summit reviewing the three years since the last summit in Casablanca, Morocco, will also focus on the "dangers of allowing Israel to continue piling up nuclear weapons."

But the source said the superpowers have been in contact with the OIC officials because of the importance of the summit.

He said the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Walter Cutler, met Mr. Pizadeh in Jeddah last week.

He also said it would be difficult to comment on the outcome of the summit if Iran does not attend.

He pointed out that Iran did not attend the last two summits in 1981 and 1984, but was represented at the OIC's annual foreign ministers conference in 1985 and 1986.

The conference will be preceded by a meeting of senior officials on Jan. 21 and a foreign ministers meeting on Jan. 22-24 to

draw up the agenda.

Other issues expected to be debated are the situations in Afghanistan, South Africa and Namibia, the economic crisis in Africa, setting up an international Islamic Court of Justice and proclaiming an Islamic human rights charter.

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A source at the Jeddah-based OIC said the terrorism issue will be on the agenda at the request of Kuwait and Syria.

The two countries, which are members of the 46-nation OIC, seek a unified Islamic stand against "all forms" of terrorism, said the source, who asked not to be identified.

Kuwait has been hit by terrorists since car bomb attacks against the U.S. and French embassies in December 1983.

Syria has been implicated in terrorist attacks carried out by Arabs in Europe.

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Israelis call for continued defence, economic ties with South Africa

TEL AVIV (AP) — A panel of experts has recommended that Israel maintain its economic and defence links with South Africa despite U.S. sanctions against the Pretoria government, Israeli news reports said Sunday.

The recommendation was made by the Foreign Ministry and will be presented to the cabinet in the coming weeks after the finance and trade ministries include their observations, the daily *Davar* reported.

Israel is torn between pressure from the United States to adopt clear steps against South Africa and concern that sanctions could damage the Israeli economy and possibly harm South Africa's large Jewish community.

Israel has been asked to state its position to the United States in advance of a report which President Ronald Reagan must submit to Congress by April 1 listing the countries adhering to the U.S. sanctions. Countries

violating the U.S. measures are in danger of losing their foreign aid appropriation from Washington.

The Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the reports.

The report in the daily *Davar* said Israel would assure the United States it was not selling South Africa weapons.

The newspaper added that such assurances are meaningless because the defence ties between the two countries consist of the sale of know-how and licences for weapons production.

The report quoted foreign news reports as saying Israel sold South Africa the know-how for the production of the sea-to-sea "gabriel" missile, manufactured in South Africa under the name

"scorpion."

Israel Radio said the Foreign Ministry recommendations support continued defence cooperation with South Africa.

But left-wing legislator Yossi Sarid warned in a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel should sever all military ties with South Africa so as not to risk incurring Washington's anger.

Sarid sent similar letters to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the daily *Al Hamishmar* reported.

Davar and other newspapers said Israeli leaders had decided to lower the profile of Israel's links with the apartheid regime by cancelling several cultural and sports delegations to South Africa.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Yossi Beilin said Saturday he told State Department officials in

Washington last week Israel "would not lag behind the policy of the United States and Europe and we must keep our word."

But Beilin, speaking on Israeli television, noted that Israel has "a problem with South Africa because of the Jewish community there" which numbers an estimated 120,000 people.

Beilin said Sunday that the Foreign Ministry had undertaken a comprehensive examination of Israel's ties with South Africa, Israel Radio reported.

The radio also said the Israeli experts warned that South Africa was a valuable export market which Israel could not afford to lose.

Israel has a negative trade balance of more than \$100 million with South Africa, with 1985 exports totaling \$63.8 million, a drop of some 40 percent from the previous year, compared with \$174.7 million worth of imports.

Iranian reportedly attended White House meeting

NEW YORK (R) — Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar met a National Security Council official in an office on White House grounds in a 1985 meeting on arms sales to Iran, a U.S. television network said.

NBC News said a report by the Senate Intelligence Committee investigating the arms sales indicated Ghorbanifar was in Washington in November 1985 to attend a meeting on planning the final stages of Israel's second arms shipment to Iran.

Quoting its own unnamed source, NBC said the meeting was held in a conference room of the executive office building next door to the White House.

The Senate report said two Iranian arms dealers, Yaacov Nimrodi and Al Schwimmer, and National Security Council (NSC) representative Michael Leveen also attended, NBC reported.

A spokesman for the White House would not comment on the report. The spokesman said he could only repeat the White House call for the Senate committee to release its report publicly.

NBC said that by August 1986 the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had its own Iranian contacts. It said White House memos described one as a personal representative of Iran's speaker of the parliament.

It said the unnamed contact was flown to Washington last September for secret meetings with former NSC aide Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and two CIA officials.

"We feel people are hostile to us," complained Walid Naem, 28.

"Most of the time they don't even give us a lift when they see us in uniform."

Jamal, 23, said: "We try to mix with people and pretend to be gentle, calm and sociable, but our reaction to any slight annoyance is mostly violence and sometimes killing."

"We prefer to get back to our barricades and live together where we spent most of our youth with

Lebanese militiamen tired of war, bad food, low pay and big rats

BEIRUT (R) — After almost 12 years of civil war, some of Lebanon's rank-and-file militiamen say they are tired of violence, low pay, bad food and rats as big as cats.

"We want to secure our future," said Karim Youssef, 25, who lost a leg in a recent skirmish. "For 11 years, fighting has been our daily occupation and we have no other skills."

"Otherwise there would be a bloodbath..."

Many young men unable to find jobs in Lebanon's shrinking economy join militias simply to support their families.

"We no longer care about politics, or who our leaders are, but if they ever declare that war is over, they will have to find us jobs and get us back into society," he said.

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Former Israeli officers arranged arms for contras

TEGUCIGALPA (Agencies) — Former Israeli military officers living here helped arrange secret Israeli arms shipments to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels, Honduran military sources say. The named Israeli denied the charges.

The sources, who spoke to Reuters Saturday on the understanding they were not to be named, said a former Israeli officer now managing an agricultural firm in Tegucigalpa had been the middleman for Israeli arms shipments via Honduras to the rebels, known as contras, since 1984.

The sources said an Israeli firm operating in Honduras, International Security and Defence Systems (ISDS), was linked to the arms shipments.

They identified Emil Saada, part owner and manager of Accesa and Shemesh Agrotech, as the middleman, and ISDS employee Yehuda Leitner as his aide.

Saada denied the allegation. "That is a lie. I believe I am being scapegoated by arms dealers who want to damage my reputation," he told Reuters.

Leitner also denied any role in arms trafficking. He said he worked for Saada in southern Honduras. "I'm not an arms trafficker, I'm a melon trafficker," he said.

But Saada said Leitner was not on his payroll. "He doesn't work for me. He works for ISDS," he said.

The Honduran military sources said the men became involved in arms dealing in 1984.

One of the largest shipments to Honduras, arranged by Israeli dealers arrived at Puerto Cortes in May, 1985, and contained AK-47 and G-3 assault rifles, SAM-7 anti-aircraft rockets, ammunition and mortars, a rebel source and a Honduran military officer said.

It was for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (NDF), the

Former Turkish premier faces lifetime political ban

ANKARA (R) — Former Turkish Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit said Sunday he would lose his political rights for life unless he won an appeal against a court conviction.

Under the constitution, anyone sentenced to a total of one year in jail forfeits the right to stand for public office for life, even if a pardon is later granted.

A court in the Western town of Bornoval sentenced Mr. Ecevit to 11 months and 20 days in jail for violating a provisional article of the constitution and a political ban imposed on hundreds of politicians after the military took power in 1980.

Mr. Ecevit, three times prime minister in the 1970s, had been sentenced to nine months in jail soon after the military coup.

"If the Bornoval court's decision is approved by the high court of appeal, I shall be deprived of political rights for life," Mr. Ecevit told Reuters.

He said public opinion had focused largely on article four of the constitution, restricting the political rights of former party leaders for 10 years.

"Yet there are undeniably restrictions affecting all citizens among the other articles of the constitution, one of which is such a ban for life," he said.

Diplomats in Ankara said the Bornoval court decision could have serious repercussions on Turkey's relations with Western Europe.

"With this decision, the Turkish establishment has shot itself in the foot," one diplomat said.

Turkey, criticised in the West for record on human rights issues, has restored ties with the European Parliament's Socialist group and says it will apply for full membership of the European Community this year.

"It will make it difficult for Turkey to sustain its argument that it is a democratic country, if

former leaders are kept away from politics," the diplomat said.

About 100 law suits have been filed against Mr. Ecevit over speeches he made at rallies of the Democratic Left Party (DLP), run by his wife, Rahsan, during a campaign for parliamentary by-elections last September.

"It has become a full-time job for me to deal with them," Mr. Ecevit said. "Although some courts have acquited me, most law suits are still pending."

He said the main argument in the suits against him was that his speeches expressed support for the DLP and his main defense was that "laws made it compulsory for me to vote for a party which in effect I have to support."

He added: "An interesting argument against me is that I travelled together with the chairman of the party, who happens to be my wife."

"I stressed that I shall continue accompanying my wife in her travels so long as I am not in prison... This is not a matter which may concern the constitution, the laws or the courts."

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jalan Amman, Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jalan Lubweibeh, Tel. 637440. De Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jalan Hussein, Tel. 661757. Terra Sancti Church (Roman Catholic), Jalan Lubweibeh, uses the Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox), Tel. 623548. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jalan Amman, Tel. 678906. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 772561. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

International Church (Inter-denominational); meet at Southern Baptist School in Simeleah, Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jalan Amman, 5th Circle, Tel. 678906. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 772561.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

0735 — Cairo (MS) 0920 — Amman 1230 — Beirut 1345 — Damascus 1400 — Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (KU) 1445 — Bangkok (TK) 1500 — Jakarta (KA) 1545 — Casablanca (TJ) 1645 — Bangkok (TK) 0140 — Bagdad (KA)

0645 — Agba (RJ) 0655 — Cairo (RJ) 0725 — Jeddah (RJ) 0930 — Muscat, Dubai (RJ) 0930 — Damascus (RJ) 1000 — Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ) 1030 — Larnaca (RJ) 1100 — Beirut (RJ) 1130 — Casablanca (RJ) 1245 — Bangkok (RJ) 1300 — Bagdad (RJ)

0645 — Amman 0710 — Beirut 0720 — Cairo (RJ) 0730 — Jeddah 0745 — Muscat 0800 — Larnaca 0815 — Bagdad 0830 — Casablanca 0845 — Bangkok 0900 — Beirut 0915 — Cairo (RJ) 0930 — Jeddah 0945 — Muscat 1000 — Larnaca 1015 — Bagdad 1030 — Casablanca 1045 — Bangkok 1100 — Beirut 1115 — Cairo (RJ) 1130 — Jeddah 1145 — Muscat 1155 — Larnaca 1200 — Bagdad 1215 — Casablanca 1230 — Bangkok 1245 — Beirut 1255 — Cairo (RJ) 1300 — Jeddah 1315 — Muscat 1330 — Larnaca 1345 — Bagdad 1355 — Casablanca 1400 — Bangkok 1415 — Beirut 1430 — Cairo (RJ) 1445 — Jeddah 1455 — Muscat 1500 — Larnaca 1515 — Bagdad 1530 — Casablanca 1545 — Bangkok 1555 — Beirut 1600 — Cairo (RJ) 1615 — Jeddah 1630 — Muscat 1645 — Larnaca 1655 — Bagdad 1700 — Casablanca 1715 — Bangkok 1730 — Beirut 1745 — Cairo (RJ) 1755 — Jeddah 1810 — Muscat 1825 — Larnaca 1840 — Bagdad 1855 — Casablanca 1900 — Bangkok 1915 — Beirut 1930 — Cairo (RJ) 1945 — Jeddah 1955 — Muscat 1970 — Larnaca 1985 — Bagdad 1995 — Casablanca 2000 — Bangkok 2015 — Beirut 2030 —

Long-term project to line Desert Highway with trees gets underway

KARAK (Petra) — A project to plant trees along the Desert Highway, linking Amman with the port city of Aqaba, began on Sunday with a ceremony attended by Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and ministry officials.

The ceremony, held at Qatraneh near Karak, was addressed by Dr. Mukhles Amman, director of the Karak Agriculture Department, who reviewed his department's activities and programmes. Dr. Amman said that the first stage entails planting trees along an 11-kilometre stretch of the road, with six trees being planted on each side all along the line.

The minister, the governor of Karak Salem Al Qudah, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi, directors of government departments and representatives of the armed forces and Qatraneh municipality were among those taking part in the tree-planting ceremony.

Mr. Hmoud later said that the whole length of the road from Qatraneh to Aqaba will be planted with trees in implementation of provisions in the Ministry of Agriculture's five-year development plan and in a bid to stem desertification.

The Desert Highway is a vital lifeline for the Jordanian economy, linking the northern parts with the southern regions of the Kingdom, and it is a route taken by pilgrims to Mecca and tourists going to Aqaba and the southern regions of the country.

Students hit by car take tawjiji examinations from hospital beds

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Two out of eight female students who were knocked down by a speeding car in Jabal Luweibeh on Saturday were undergoing treatment at Lazzat Hospital on Sunday and were expected to remain there for some time, according to a hospital spokeswoman. She told the Jordan Times that the two girls Ademis Kojaan and Gbada Dababneh were suffering from a broken leg and a fracture in the pelvis. A third girl, Bushana Mohammad, was discharged on Sunday morning after receiving treatment for a leg injury, the

spokeswoman said.

She said that the eight girls, aged between 16 and 18 years of age, were on their way to their tawjiji examination hall when the car hit them. The accident was believed to have occurred only 10 minutes before the start of the examination session and the Ministry of Education, which is supervising the general examination, immediately sent women teachers to the hospital with question and answer sheets for the injured students.

According to the spokeswoman, five of the injured girls were discharged shortly after receiving treatment at the hospital's outpatient department

and went back to their examinations, but the other three had to take the examination from their hospital beds.

The injured students will not be given a special treatment by the Ministry of Education in view of their condition. Asked by the Jordan Times to comment on the situation, the ministry's Director of Examinations Ahmad Taqsi said that the girls in hospital were being provided with all means enabling them to take the examination, and if necessary people would write the answers for them. He stated that their papers will be treated exactly as the rest of their colleagues.

Antiquities director inspects restoration work, reviews security measures at Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — Department of Antiquities Director Adnan Al Hadidi Sunday paid a visit to the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and inspected restoration work being carried out in the ancient city.

Dr. Hadidi and local officials discussed measures to be taken in order to provide greater protection for the antiquities, artefacts and statues on the archaeological site. He said walls and barbed wire fences would be erected around the whole site.

Dr. Hadidi's visit follows the theft of a statue of a lion's head from Jerash. The stolen head has now been retrieved and the thieves apprehended by the police. According to Dr. Hadidi, the head of the statue had been

sawn off and transferred to a small van using wooden beams and ropes. Two brothers in their forties were implicated in the theft.

According to Dr. Hadidi, his department is now preparing to register the city of Jerash on a list of international cultural sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

He also announced the appointment of Mr. Ali Mousa Saleh as inspector general of Jerash antiquities to replace Mrs. A'ideh Naghawi.

Zarqa reviews development projects in its five-year plan

ZARQA (Petra) — Projects that have been carried out or those still underway in Zarqa Governorate were reviewed on Sunday during a meeting held under the chairmanship of acting governor Khaled Al Bawaliz. The major speakers at the meeting were Mr. Bawaliz, Dr. Abdul Ilah Abu Ayash, director of the Zarqa region development department, and Mr. Mahmoud Qatarni, representative of the Ministry of Planning.

The meeting reviewed a report on development projects which indicated that out of a total of 109 projects to be implemented within

the five-year plan, 59 are currently underway and JD 30 million have been spent on part of these projects in the past year.

The report said JD 10 million were spent on social and industrial sectors in the past year, JD 422,000 on health schemes, JD 2,666 million on education represented mainly in the construction of schools, JD 11,000 on Awqaf projects and JD 3.3 million on government and public buildings.

The meeting also reviewed problems and difficulties impeding the implementation of projects.

Hawamdeh leaves for general conference on Arab contracting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh left for Casablanca on Sunday at the head of a delegation to take part in the second general conference of the Arab Contractors Federation (ACF), due to open today.

During its three-day meeting, the conference will review reports on the federation's administrative and financial performance and will also study a request from the Egyptian contractors union to join the federation. It will also draw up future plans for the federation.

During the conference, the Jordanian delegation will take part in seminar on contracting and will submit a working paper dealing with the Arab contracting business in general.

The conference is being attended by delegations representing contractors unions in most Arab states, including Jordan which is represented by a 25-member team led by Mr. Ali Abu Raghib, president of the Jordanian Contractors Association.

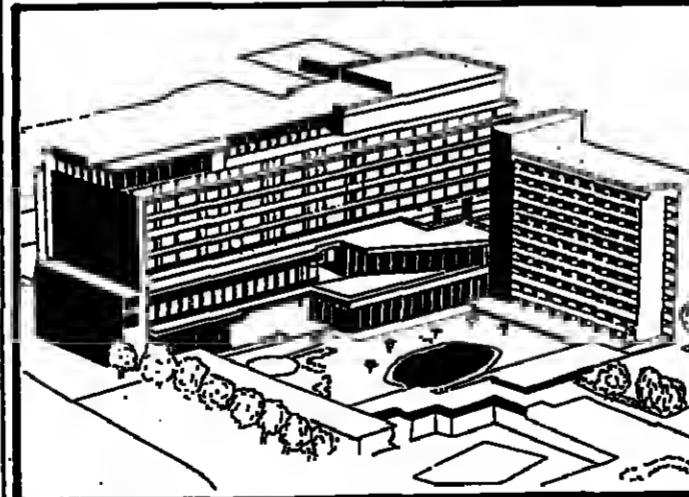
Jordan takes part in seminar on informatics and computers

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has taken part in a symposium on educational informatics and the employment of computers which was held by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in Rabat over the past week.

Dr. Mohammad Rajab Al Jabiri from the Ministry of Higher Education, who represented Jordan in the meeting, said that delegates from Arab countries discussed the experiments of Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in the employment of computers in the educational process. They also reviewed plans submitted by Britain, Belgium, the United States and Morocco as applied in their schools and another scheme implemented by Ohio University in the United States and another

The symposium recommended that schools in the Islamic world introduce computers and help students learn about modern technology, according to Dr. Al Jabiri. He said that the symposium recommended that teams of experts be formed in each country to work out programmes for computers and to provide information to schools. The participants also called on Arab states to try to benefit from the experiences of advanced countries in this respect.

Taking part in the week-long symposium were delegates from 20 Islamic countries, five European nations and four regional and international organisations.



Hotel completes first stage of modernisation programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first stage of refurbishing and modernising the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman has been completed, according to an announcement issued by the hotel's management. The announcement said that the first stage entailed plastering and painting two facades of the new annex in white and covering the other two facades with stone to match the architectural style of Amman.

Mr. Jubrul Khawam, the hotel's general manager, said that the Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company which owns the hotel, is

NEWS IN BRIEF

India to negotiate mineral purchases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and India are currently holding contacts for signing an agreement between them under which India will import JD 11 million worth of Jordanian phosphates, potash and fertilisers. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has set up a negotiation committee for this purpose.

Japanese economy team due Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese economic delegation is due here on Tuesday for a three-day visit to Jordan. The delegation members will meet Jordanian officials in charge of the economic sector and acquaint themselves with the economic climate in the Kingdom with special attention to prospects for investments. The delegation, which represents various economic sectors in Japan, will meet Jordanian businessmen and visit the Sahab Industrial City.

Lawzi receives U.S. ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi on Sunday received U.S. Ambassador in Amman Paul Boeker. The current situation in the region as well as bilateral relations were reviewed during the meeting.

ICRC president to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President Alexander Hay is due here on Feb. 3 part of tour which will take him to Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt during which he will examine the ICRC activities in these countries. During his visit to Jordan, the ICRC president will meet the chairman of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura, who is also the president of the International Red Cross Standing Commission for discussions on existing ICRC-JNRCS cooperation.

Ministry to take part in Saudi trade fair

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade will take part in a trade exhibition scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Feb. 7. The exhibition will last for five-days.

Haj Hassan reviews relations with Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan on Sunday received Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ehab Wahbe. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and existing cooperation between the two countries, especially in the labour field.

JEA completes load management study

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has recently completed an important technical study on load management with the aim of reducing electric energy generating costs through improving the performance of electrical systems, distributing loads economically and increasing the reliability and efficiency of electrical systems. The study, the first of its kind, was conducted by a joint team from the JEA, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO), the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO) in cooperation with a team of U.S. experts and engineers.

Dakhqan urges more attention to Arab maritime operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Nation pays about \$9,000 million annually to transport in-coming and out-going goods and for this reason Arab countries ought to give far more attention to the development of their maritime transport operations and vessels, Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan said here Sunday in a speech read out on his behalf by Mr. Yasser Tal, director of the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL).

budget.

The Arab Federation of Shipping meeting in Amman coincides with a current controversy in the local press over a recent Central Bank of Jordan circular confining all maritime shipping via Aqaba port to the JNSL.

The Central Bank wants all public and private sector operations to conform to these instructions, but critics contend that as long as the JNSL has an insufficient number of vessels to carry out all the operations and since a great deal of shipping is being done through foreign vessels any way there is no need for this new protectionist measure. The critics maintain that by abiding by the Central Bank instructions both the private and the public sectors will be paying foreign vessels which are the real beneficiaries of these operations.

Critics also say that the private sector in Jordan should have the right to opt for vessels or shipping lines which offer a far cheaper cost rate for transporting goods to and from Jordan and instead they propose the payment of a nominal toll to the JNSL.

Arab countries ahead of UNICEF schedule for 80% immunisation by 1990

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Most Arab countries are ahead of schedule in terms of attaining the universal immunisation campaign targeted for 1990, a project initiated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which aims to immunise at least 80 per cent of the world's children by the end of the pioneering programme.

According to UNICEF Regional Director Richard Reid, who has just ended a tour of several Arab countries, some states in the region have the potential to meet the target before schedule due to a high level of public awareness and government cooperation.

Mr. Reid said he expected that Oman would achieve remarkable progress immunisation against communicable diseases and combatting dehydration resulting from diarrhoea.

In Egypt, Mr. Reid and UNICEF Executive Director James Grant made field visits to UNICEF programmes and held talks there will focus on the best means to arrive at the highest immunisation rate in the shortest possible time, Mr. Reid added.

Following their visit to the two North African countries, Mr. Reid and Mr. Grant are due to fly to Geneva to attend the meeting of the joint committee on health policy, which will be held jointly with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

With 59 million people, the

most densely populated Arab country has the potential to achieve its target before schedule due to the country's high public awareness. Moreover, Egypt is considered a geographically manageable country, Mr. Reid added.

Visits to Algeria, Morocco

Mr. Reid and Mr. Grant are expected to leave on Monday for Algeria and Morocco during which they are scheduled to hold contacts with high ranking government officials. Their talks there will focus on the best means to arrive at the highest immunisation rate in the shortest possible time, Mr. Reid added.

Following their visit to the two North African countries, Mr. Reid and Mr. Grant are due to fly to Geneva to attend the meeting of the joint committee on health policy, which will be held jointly with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

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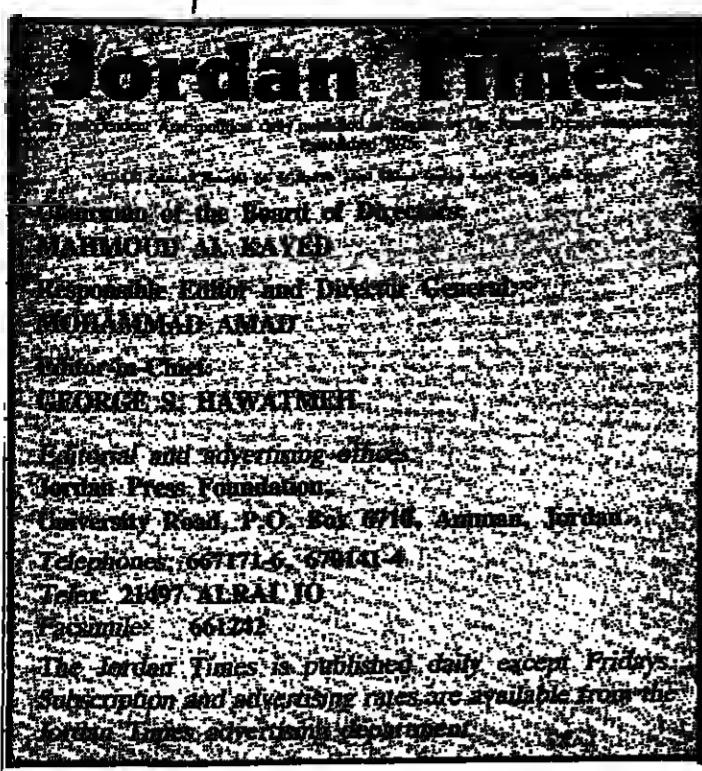
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Every trick in the book

IRAQI Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan expressed the feelings of millions of Arabs when he described as immoral the U.S.' act of supplying Iran with weapons and Iraq with misleading intelligence information in order to ensure the continuation of the war and use the Iranian threat to pressure the Gulf states into accepting U.S. intervention and the setting up of an American military base in the Gulf region. That the U.S. would use every trick in the book to return Iran to the American camp was not a big surprise to many, and particularly the Iraqis, right from the beginning. But what is surprising and indeed immoral is for the U.S. to go as far as dealing with sponsors of international terrorism, supplying them with weapons, and then providing their enemy with false information. If such examples of U.S.-Iranian cooperation and coordination are not enough to convince the parties which still give Tehran the benefit of the doubt, one need not go any further than seeing the pivotal role of Israel in the whole Iran scandal in its true perspective. It must be remembered that Israeli officials during the time of Prime Minister Shimon Peres actively played the role of broker between Washington and Tehran and led the U.S. policy makers, from U.S. President Ronald Reagan down, a merry dance along the path of cooperation and duplicity between the parties of the infamous tripartite alliance.

It would be an understatement to say merely that the U.S. had lost credibility in our region. The U.S. has also lost respect and friends. When Iraqi officials now disclose that the misleading information about Iranian troop movements, which the special intelligence unit set up at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad had supplied to the Iraqis, had led to the loss of Fao Island near the Kuwaiti frontier, they are in effect shedding light on U.S. intentions and interests in our region. What is even more relevant and disturbing for us in this region of the world is that the U.S. has shown its true colours and has decisively chosen to reduce the number of its true friends in the Middle East in such a manipulating and underhand way.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan's drive angers Israel

THE Israelis and their allies have been deeply concerned over Jordan's diplomatic moves in Europe and the King's drive to develop the European stand with a view to fully accepting the idea of an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East. Israel's angry reaction to the King's successes was obvious in the anti-Jordanian propaganda campaign it has been launching lately as a means of obstructing all efforts that can lead to the convening of such a conference. The new malicious campaigns against Jordan are not the first to be launched by Israel and definitely will not be the last, because they are aimed at forcing Jordan to abandon its pan-Arab causes and its national stands. Jordan will never substitute the idea of the conference with bilateral talks that can only lead to partial solutions for the Palestine problem and will never give up the drive to rally support of the international community for convening the proposed conference which the Arabs hope will find a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan has also reiterated that it will not act for the PLO or serve as an agent for the Palestinian people in any negotiations for peace and therefore Jordan will never be affected by Zionist campaigns and will continue to call for the participation of the PLO and all concerned parties in negotiations for a lasting settlement.

Al Dustour: U.N. calls for war end

THE United Nations Security Council Friday renewed its call for an end to the Gulf war and expressed concern over the recent escalation in the fighting and fear over the possible spread of the war to new regions and the shelling of civilian targets. The statement which was supported by all 15 members of the council followed a similar statement by the United Nations secretary general in which he called for an urgent meeting of the council at the foreign ministers level to find an end for the conflict. It is good to see world nations awakening to the sounds of guns and appalled at the huge loss of life in the Gulf region, but words and statements are not enough to end the bloodshed. The Security Council has a major role to play specially as it now hears Tehran openly declaring its intention of occupying another country's territory. The tragic situation in the region and the dangerous escalation of the fighting ought to prompt the international community to take serious action and more realistic steps than merely issuing statements to end the conflict. In addition, we believe the Arab countries have a special responsibility in the face of Iran's continued aggression on an Arab state. They should extend all possible help to Iraq and repel aggression directed on Arab territory.

Sawt Al Shaab: Peace for the holy land

KING Hussein's meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican was part of the drive for establishing peace in the holy land in general and the holy city of Jerusalem in particular. We realise that the Vatican is well aware of the situation in the occupied Arab territory and the condition of Islamic and Christian shrines under occupation; and no one can deny the role that the Vatican can play to end the sufferings of the Palestinian people. We are quite confident that what the Pope heard from the King about the situation in our region and his call for a lasting peace remains the main objective of the Holy See in our part of the world because the Palestinian land is holy for all religions. We are sure that the Vatican will continue to play a major role in spreading peace and affection among people of the world and call for an end to all forms of conflicts and violence. Therefore, we urge the Vatican to help re-establish the rights of the Palestinians because the city of Jerusalem must not remain under the domination of racist elements that are hostile to humanity. No one can accept occupation of the holy land where the Israelis continue their drive to demolish Arab homes and violate the sanctity of holy places.

Give Iran ideas on peace not weapons

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

THE idea of convening a meeting by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council on the foreign ministerial level as a prelude to a general meeting of the whole Security Council to deal with the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq offers the most operational concept yet to stop that war. Neither the Non-Aligned Conference, nor the Organisation of Islamic Countries have the means or leverage with the warring states especially Iran, to persuade the two countries to stop the fighting. Both organisations have made in fact many attempts in the past to stop the war, but they were all in vain. Their performance in the future is not likely to change much for two fundamental reasons.

First of all, neither organisation wants to take on the war issue with the prerequisite degree of political will to make any difference in the final analysis. It will be noticed from the performances of the two organisations that, by and large the participants suffice themselves by making pious remarks or pleas in a style true to their respective forums. One senses that most of the members of the two organisations think and feel that the best course to take on the issue of the war is to take a neutral stand, coupled with the ordinary and routine calls for an end to the bleeding between the two countries. It appears that most of the membership have not yet made a definitive determination about the guilt and innocence of the parties to conflict in spite of the records of the respective warring countries since the inception of the armed conflict between them. In a nut shell, the two organisations have not chosen yet to bite into the issue of the war in a sincere and determined manner.

Secondly, the members of the two organisations lack the material leverage with Iran to make a difference one way or another. After all, the war machine of Iran is not dependent on any country member of either organisation. On the economic front, one finds the unfortunate situation where most of the member states of both organisations are trading with the warring countries on equal terms as if there is not, in relative terms, a guilty party and an innocent party.

On the basis of the foregoing, it would be overly optimistic to expect the forthcoming OIC summit in Kuwait to offer an operational formula to effectively stop the war. It is indeed perplexing to note that many Islamic countries are pinning their

hopes on the OIC to find the secret, and magic formula to end the fighting. Of course, I hope that my assessment of the prospects of finding a solution to the Gulf war within the OIC would turn out to be all wrong and overly pessimistic; there is nothing more than any man or woman on this earth wants than to see the OIC succeed where it had failed before.

But for the meeting of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council on the foreign ministerial level to succeed, it is incumbent on them individually and collectively to accept the proposition that the war issue lies squarely within the jurisdiction of the United Nations. The war issue is clearly an issue which threatens international peace and security. The permanent members of the Security Council have thus far perpetrated a gross act of negligence for opting thus far to stay effectively aloof from the conflict and refrain from taking a decisive action on it, despite its magnitude and dimensions. But better late than never, and now is the time for the permanent members to become seized with the situation in the Gulf in a serious and determined manner. Naturally, whatever action the permanent members decide to take on the Gulf war, it must be presented to the whole membership of the Security Council for final adoption as an enforceable resolution. And, as the permanent members of the Security Council would be represented by their respective foreign ministers, it would be likewise necessary to have the rest of the members of the Security Council represented by their respective foreign ministers.

Needless to say, the war machines of the warring countries are directly dependent on the governments of the permanent members of the Security Council. All the sophisticated weaponry and high technology necessary to keep the war going till this date come basically from those countries and, therefore, the key to the whole issue of war lies squarely in the hands of the governments of the permanent members of the Security Council. All is needed is a demonstration of collective political will and a determination on their part, individually and collectively, to enforce their resolution with sincerity and honesty.

One needs to press the point about sincerity and honesty in view of the shocking and startling revelations about the Iran arms deal. At a time when the U.S. government professed to be solidly behind the

international efforts to stop the war in the Gulf, and charged that Iran was specially responsible for the continuation of the war because of its repeated rejection of all the proposals submitted in various international and regional form, one is astounded to discover that the U.S. was concurrently selling effective and decisive weaponry to Iran, thus causing the war to continue till this date. But, the most demonic duplicity committed by the U.S. government in this context can be found in the most startling revelation yet; to wit, that the U.S. intelligence agencies were providing the two warring countries, Iraq and Iran, with doctored satellite information with a view to keep the war efforts of both countries continuing until this very minute. It is unbelievable that a superpower would use its sophisticated means to prolong the killing for so long in order to serve its short-sighted national interest. The literally hundreds of thousands killed already on both sides should be accounted for at some time in the future. Their blood will be remembered much after it dries, and all those countries which effectively prolonged it, whether directly or indirectly, must be held answerable and accountable by the international community.

Accordingly, for the U.N. Security Council to succeed in its efforts to end the Gulf war, it is incumbent on the permanent members to lay their cards on the negotiation table. It is unconscionable for any government to discover that its right hand is not aware of what its left hand is doing. To assure operational success, the foreign ministers of the permanent members of the Security Council must become privy to all aspects of their respective governments policies and actions vis-a-vis the war.

Time is short and running out very fast for decisive action to be taken on the Gulf war. As it is widely reported that Iran will initiate its main offensive against Iraq early in the spring, the U.N. Security Council must proceed forthwith to adopt its action to arrest any future offensives by Iraq before they take place. Now is the time to convene the permanent members of the Security Council and now is the time to stop the bleeding in the Gulf. To paraphrase the words of the secretary-general of the United Nations, Iran and Iraq need operational ideas not weapons. This wise admonition applies in particular to Iran which refuses to abide by the resolutions of the international community.

Turkey faces challenge of Muslim fundamentalists

By Paul Bolding
Reuter

ANKARA — Turkey faced a major challenge this weekend from Muslim fundamentalists seeking an end to curbs on religious expression.

Rallying around Necmettin Erbakan, an ultra-conservative former deputy prime minister now banned from party politics, several thousand men demonstrated in Istanbul on Friday, some calling for the return of *sharia* — Islamic law.

They were protesting against a ban imposed last month on women students covering their heads in Islamic fashion while on campus, an issue which has sparked a string of protests and a major public debate over the role of Islam.

To many moderate Turks the scene in newspaper photographs, with lines of crash-kempt police holding back demonstrators, recalled the late 1970s when more than 5,000 people died in a wave of religious and political violence.

"My God. It's happening again," one Ankara woman said.

An Istanbul man in his 20s, seeing a picture of Erbakan surrounded by bearded men, some in turbans, said: "It looks just like Iran."

Police said they detained seven people for leading an unauthorised demonstration, two of whom were Iranians.

Fundamentalists say the ban infringes individual rights.

"Democracy," Erbakan said at a news conference, "means a regime that also protects the rights of a minority."

Many Turks, however, appear to regard it as important to crack down on the headscarf issue for fear that the country will otherwise be on the road to an Iranian-style Islamic revolution.

"The issue has long ceased to be an individual act and has turned into an organised mass movement designed to embarrass the democratic Turkish regime," said the daily *Millet* on January 9.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal told a news conference last week that fundamentalism was a potential threat for Turkey but he sought to play it down. The teetotal, non-smoking premier is regarded as the most devout Turkey has had and has made no clear statement on the headscarf issue.

In Ankara on Friday a petrol bomb was thrown into a perfumery by two men on a motorcycle who left a leaflet saying:

"If we cannot cover our women, we will stop you decorating your mistresses. Islamic Revival Organisation."

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- draft routine correspondence and prepare short summary reports
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- assist in the organisation of seminars and training courses
- assist in the administrative functions of specialists
- type correspondence and reports in English and Arabic

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- secondary education and secretarial studies
- training or experience in office administrative functions
- very good knowledge of Arabic and English
- ability to type in Arabic and English and stenographic skill in one language
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- secondary education or equivalent (as a minimum) with training and studies relevant to the job
- very good knowledge of Arabic and English — knowledge of French an advantage
- ability to draft and type in English and Arabic
- substantial experience in administrative and financial functions preferably in accounting and personnel administration in international organisations.

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DUTIES: Bilingual secretary to the Director and the tasks include the following:

- assembling relevant data and information and maintaining office records and files
- preparing the appointments and programmes and keeping track of meetings requiring the attention of the Director
- normal secretarial duties including taking dictation and typing in Arabic and English
- drafting of routine correspondence and the preparation of summary translations of documents and reports
- organising the meetings called by the Director.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- secondary school (or equivalent) with study and training in secretarial work
- very good knowledge of English and Arabic. Knowledge of French an advantage
- shorthand and typing in English and Arabic at test standards
- adequate experience as secretary preferably with experience in accounting and budgetary control in international organisations.

(3) CLERK/TYPIST (Grade L.3, approximate basic starting salary: JD 2300 per annum)

DUTIES include:

Japanese education system praised

By Jim Impoco
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Ever since Japan began the transition into the modern world following the Meiji restoration in 1868, education has been the key to national strength and prosperity.

The national schooling setup has attracted foreign admiration for many reasons, among them helping to create a high-tech society where 90 per cent of the students finish high school and more than 99 per cent of the population is considered literate.

But despite its impressive reputation, educators here and abroad have suggested that Japan's system — notable for Prussian-style regimentation, learning by rote and excellent test scores — could be improved in many ways.

Critics say emphasis on memorisation thwarts creativity and prevents young children from developing independent thinking, which could cause a shortage of "creative" individuals and impede Japan's efforts to produce original research in technical fields.

They also have attacked the undue pressure on students to pass an "examination hell" in which top scores guarantee acceptance by prestigious school or university and a career in government or business.

Half of Japan's junior high school students also attend "juku," or cram schools, designed to help them pass the rigorous high-school and college examinations.

Some critics contend that the amount of money that parents spend to enrol their children in one of these 36,000 schools belies

Japan's claim to an egalitarian education system.

Many long have considered the pressure to pass the college exams as a primary cause of student suicides in Japan. About a quarter of the more than 700 Japanese young people who killed themselves last year did so because of "school problems," according to a December police report.

Authorities also say student violence — both against teachers and schoolmates — is a growing problem. At least 10 student suicides last year were blamed on "jime," or verbal or physical bullying by other students.

Only 34.7 per cent of Japanese students went on to college in 1986, but those who did found themselves on an easy track compared with students in most other developed nations. Once the exam hurdle is cleared, Japan's colleges and universities are not noted for a tough curriculum.

Meiji-era educators devoted tremendous energy to studying foreign school systems, particularly the U.S., French and Prussian systems, and borrowing heavily from them to create one of the world's most developed systems of universal education in 1872.

To this day, one of Japan's most familiar sights is the hordes of uniformed middle and high school students, the boys in brass-buttoned black jackets and caps, the girls in dark blue jumpers and skirts, all totting identical briefcases.

But the system that helped catapult Japan into the rank of advanced nations also was seen after World War II as having been instrumental in fueling the view that "progress can be

Japan's ultra-nationalism and militarist adventures.

U.S. occupation forces ordered a radical overhaul of the system in 1947 and brought in American experts who constructed one modeled more on their own.

They reorganized the curriculum, abolishing ethics courses emphasizing loyalty to the emperor and nationalism in favour of

social studies and programmes stressing citizenship in a democratic society. Role-learning and many other methods were retained.

Some Japanese educators recently have argued for reform of the system on grounds that many current problems result from "abnormal conditions," meaning the occupation.

These educators and public opinion polls have called for greater moral education, although leftist teachers' union see that as an attempt to resurrect pre-war nationalism.

Others say the important issue is that Japan's education system must be tailored to the needs of an internationalized "information society" where communication

plays a role that today's students are insufficiently equipped to handle.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, calling educational reform a major goal of his administration, hopes to create a system that infuses more individuality in regimented lower school programmes while de-emphasising the "examination hell."

Study blames

By Lee Mitgang
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — American mathematics pupils badly trail those in Japan and Hong Kong largely because of unchallenging and pointlessly repetitive school curricula, concludes a study of schools in 18 nations and territories.

"In school mathematics the United States is a underachieving nation and our curriculum is helping to create a nation of underachievers," said the study released Sunday. "The Underachieving Curriculum: Assessing U.S. School Mathematics from an International Perspective."

The report is to be a main topic at an international math symposium at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington on Jan. 15-16.

It follows by week another study released by U.S. Education Secretary William J. Bennett extolling Japanese elementary and secondary schools. He suggested Americans borrow some ideas from Japan, especially the view that "progress can be

curriculum for poor U.S. math performance

made by practically anyone who tries hard enough."

The latest study places blame for the nation's math woes squarely on the curriculum in U.S. schools which, it contends, "lacks focus, challenge and vitality," and needlessly repeats concepts year after year without building on them.

But it disputes oft-repeated claims that American students are out-performed by other nations' students because of lack of sufficient time for instruction, large average class size, or because of poorly trained teachers.

In Japan, the average eighth-grade class has 40 pupils, and in 12th grade the average is 43. Both exceed U.S. averages of 26 students in eighth grade and 20 in 12th grade.

And the average amount of time devoted to math in U.S. schools was 144 hours per year, compared to 101 hours for Japanese youngsters, according to the study.

The report also questions the common practice of tracking students, or grouping them according to their mathematics ability, early in their school

careers.

"The U.S. curriculum from an international point of view lacks challenge and focus. The curriculum typically keeps revisiting concepts but the trouble is, with each revisit, we're not adding anything new," said Kenneth J. Travers, a University of Illinois mathematics education professor who was one of seven co-authors of the report.

The problem, Travers said in a telephone interview, is that the typical eighth grade math curriculum in U.S. schools resembles a repeat of the elementary curriculum, whereas in other countries students move along briskly to new concepts.

"In the eighth grade we just do sorting and tracking. Significant portions of kids are kept in grade school arithmetic. That's not found to clearly exist in other countries, and the Japanese don't track students at all," Travers said.

The study draws heavily from the widely publicized "Second International Mathematics Study" released in 1984 showing U.S. eighth- and 12th-graders ranking no better than average, and often worse, in a variety of mathematical subjects compared with 19 other nations and territories.

That study of 12,000 pupils found, for example, that Japanese eighth-graders had the best achievement scores in all five topics covered: Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, statistics and measurements.

Among 12th-graders in college preparatory high schools, Hong Kong students ranked first among 15 nations studied in each of six mathematical areas evaluated, with Japan a close second.

But American 12th-graders were second from the bottom in advanced algebra, besting only Thailand students. And they ranked 12th out of 15 nations in calculus and geometry.

The countries and territories studied besides the United States were Belgium, British Columbia, Great Britain, Finland, France, Hong Kong, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Ontario, Swaziland, Sweden, and Thailand.

Randa Habib's
corner

Do not litter

IN our drive to become a touristic country, cleanliness must surely be on top of our priorities.

The whole country is being polluted by all sorts of garbage. There is hardly a place, especially touristic sites, that are not littered with all sorts of rubbish. At the old city of Petra, in between the ruins of Jerash and along the Dead Sea shore, one is appalled by an abundance of empty bottles, used cans, plastic bags, paper bags, orange peel, chicken bones and even... baby diapers scattered all over the place. Along the coast of the Dead Sea, for example, the problem is that the mess created by careless people over the week-ends is piling up because nobody seems to be responsible for clearing the beach.

In many countries watchmen are posted at such sites to see that people don't litter the place. Rubbish bins and containers are provided for easy reach by vacationers. Moreover these places of interest should at least be cleaned once a week, and preferably at the beginning of the week or after holidays.

Tourism is vital for our country, and cleaning up the sites should be a national decision. I only hope something will be done soon.

War is a neighbour for Nicaraguan son of U.S. marine

By David Harris
Reuter

JINOTEGA, Nicaragua — When U.S. President Calvin Coolidge ordered the marines into Nicaragua in 1927 to end a festering civil war, a young soldier from West Virginia named Dorsey Wells fell in love with the country and one of its women and never left.

Sixty years later, his Nicaraguan son Harvey worries about death threats he has received from rebels backed by another American president and trains teachers who work and are sometimes killed in war zones near the Honduran border.

For Wells, who grew up and still lives in this city, considered to be one of the last secure settlements on the road north to Honduras, the war the Sandinista government wages against U.S.-backed contra rebels has become a neighbour, and danger a fact of life.

"He always told me to be honest and to fight against all kinds of dictatorships. My father came here as a U.S. marine and he loved, of course, his country. He knew very well the American democracy. But he always taught me not to accept Somozas."

The war's preface here is manifest not only by Soviet helicopters overhead, East German lorries filled with Sandinista troops rumbling through town on their way north, roads on which no-one ventures at night, but, for Wells, losing the teachers he has trained to attacks by the contras.

"It's horrible to get up in the morning and listen to the news that some of your friends, some of your relatives, some of your teachers, were killed last night because the contras, instead of fighting the Sandinista army, are killing civilians — women and children."

The teachers are targets, Wells said, because they work for the government and the contras see them as teaching not only reading and writing, but Communism.

Wells denies this, saying, "ninety-nine per cent of the teachers in Nicaragua are not teaching Communism because they do not know what Communism is."

Nevertheless, as someone who trains teachers, Wells has received death threats in the past two years over the contra raids, called the 15th of September.

"They said they were going to kill me because I am a Sandinista, and that is not correct because I am not a member of the Sandinista party," he said.

In addition to threats, he said contra broadcasts talk of taking cities in northern Nicaragua and eventually Managua.

"They say we are going to kill, to Matagalpa, to Managua, we are going to kill all the Sandinistas," he said. "But that is not a political programme. Killing, for me, is not a programme."

Pakistani on

By Philip Shabani
Reuter

ABU DHABI — Pushing a trolley packed with canned food, retired Pakistani army Major Mohammed Abbas set off on Jan. 16 on a 2,200-kilometre pilgrimage to the Muslim holy city of Mecca.

Abbas, 65, hopes to raise money for charity while fulfilling his long-cherished dream of becoming the first man in modern times to make the pilgrimage on foot.

Abbas began walking seriously in 1985 when, overweight and suffering from a kidney ailment, he was told by his doctor to exercise more.

In November that year, he marched from Dubai to Abu Dhabi — 160 kilometres — in four days. A month later he walked a 52-kilometre triangle between the UAE cities of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Dubai.

For World Health Day last April, he did a 600-kilometre walking tour of all seven of the UAE emirates, stopping at hospitals to promote the oral rehydration therapy programme of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

He raised \$2,000 for Sports Aid, the worldwide walk to help alleviate famine in Africa, during another Dubai-to-Abu Dhabi hike last May.

2,200-km walk to Mecca

about our forefathers who took a lot of trouble to travel to Mecca for the haj (pilgrimage) and I wanted to retrace their steps."

"I had to start walking opposite traffic. Otherwise they used to stop and literally force me into the car. They would give me money, thinking I had no one for a taxi," he said.

"People wonder how I can even walk 100 yards. In this part of the world, everyone goes in a car and they think it's very strange to see someone walking."

Islam requires all believers to make the pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lives if able. No special reward is prescribed for those who suffer hardship, but Abbas said: "Once you help mankind, you can be sure Allah will help you."

Walking has helped Abbas to cut his weight to 145 pounds (66 kilos) from 200 pounds (91 kilos) and rid himself of health complaints.

His route will take him along the Gulf coast from Abu Dhabi to the UAE-Qatari border, from where he might take a fund-raising detour to Doha.

From the Qatar-Saudi border crossing of Salwa, he plans to turn inland, passing through the Saudi cities of Hofuf, Riyadh and Taif.

His wife will fly to meet him in the holy city.

New York: Racism in the melting pot

By Rick Hampson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Race is an obsession in New York City, the original melting pot. Black progress as well as black failure, seem to increase racial tension, and violence flares periodically.

"New York is one of the most sophisticated and international of cities, but it is peopled from enclaves that are far more tribal than many small towns," says Jacqueline Wexler, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The enclaves are white and black. Despite the presence of dozens of racial and ethnic groups, "racism" in New York still suggests one overriding prejudice: that whites attack blacks.

A gang of whites revealed the underside of the nation's pluralist showcase Dec. 20 when they attacked three blacks walking through the largely white Queens neighbourhood of Howard Beach. One of the blacks died when he was hit by a car while trying to flee.

The incident, which was heavily publicised, outraged the black community. But by last week there were signs that New Yorkers, who stayed relatively cool when other cities burned during the U.S. race riots of the 1960s, still know how to cope with racial tension.

Asked what is unique about racism in New York, Eleanor Holmes Norton, former director of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, responds: "scale" — meaning the very size of the problem.

New York has more whites and blacks than any other U.S. city, and an environment more likely to exacerbate their mutual suspicion.

According to the 1980 census, about 52 per cent of New York's population of 7 million was white, with 24 per cent black and 20 per

World airports plan \$100 billion spending spree

There are plans at airports all over the world to meet cargo and passenger needs to the century's end. Michael Donne reports on this multi-billion-dollar expansion.

LONDON — Spending worldwide on the construction and equipping of airports up to the end of this century to meet the needs of expanding passenger and cargo traffic is likely to amount to well over \$100 billion.

With annual growth forecast at an average of about 5 per cent a year — although there are likely to be some marked regional variations — it seems likely that the ICAO figure will have doubled by about the mid-1990s and will go even higher by the end of the century.

Although the overall figure for world airport development spending may appear to be high, the cost of an individual airport when built on a "green-field" site can amount to several billion dollars.

One direct result of this massive expansion in airport developments is the intensification of competition, not only among the international consultants, designers and civil engineers who plan and build the airports, but also among the suppliers of equipment.

Driving this massive airport expansion is the growing demand worldwide for air travel. The International Civil Aviation Organisation, the aviation agency of the United Nations, reported that last year the overall volume of world scheduled air traffic

airport in the world. This airport will involve extensive reclamation from the sea to accommodate two 4,000 metre runways and one of 3,400 metres and will be ready for operations by 1992.

There is now hardly a single country in the world where some form of airport expansion, modernisation or new construction is not being undertaken or planned.

This reflects the general recognition that air transport is a vital key to economic, political and sociological growth and that to be without adequate air

transport facilities is to relegated any country to the status of an economic backwater. In the U.K., in addition to the development of the new terminal two at Gatwick and the development of Stansted airport to Essex, London's Heathrow terminal three is undergoing a major expansion.

Expansion plans at Manchester International airport are likely to be brought forward.

Airport developments are also either planned or under way in Europe at Vienna, Salzburg, Brussels, Paris (Charles de Gaulle and Orly), Nice, Athens, Dublin, Rome, Milan, Naples, Venice, Bologna, Palermo, Oslo, Lisbon, Barcelona, Madrid, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Frankfurt, Munich, Hamburg and Stuttgart.

The Far East is now a centre for

air transport growth and seems likely to remain so for some years.

As a result, new airport terminal facilities are planned in Hong Kong and Singapore.

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Leconte, Sukova upset in Australian Open tennis

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Defending women's champion Martina Navratilova moved into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open tennis championships Sunday in a day that saw fourth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia upset.

In the men's singles, no. 5 Henri Leconte of France and American Brad Gilbert, seeded seventh, also were ousted in the \$1.65 million tournament.

Navratilova, seeking her 16th career Grand Slam singles title, defeated young Jaine Thompson of Australia 6-4, 6-1. But Sukova, who upset Navratilova in 1984, stopping her record 74-match winning streak, found herself an upset victim on Sunday.

Veteran Elizabeth Smylie of Australia outlasted the tall Czech 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.

American Paul Annacone rallied from two sets down to eliminate Leconte and advance to the fourth round of the men's singles. Annacone, 23, ousted Leconte 1-6, 4-6, 3-6, 4-6, 10-8 as he came from two sets down in his second successive match.

Also posting a third-round upset victory was Australian Peter Doohan, who is ranked 29th in the world. Doohan ousted eighth-seeded Kevin Curren of the United States, the former Wimbledon and Australian Open finalist, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Derrick Rosigno of the United States shocked Gilbert, who was considered one of America's top hopes, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.

Joining Navratilova and Smylie

in the women's quarterfinals were 1980 Australian Open champion Hana Mandlikova, no. 3 Pam Shriver of the United States and compatriot no. 7 Zina Garrison and no. 8 Lori McNeil, who is Garrison's doubles partner.

Shriver rushed past 14th-seed Jo Durie of Britain 6-1, 6-2 with an impressive performance, while Garrison eliminated no. 14 Wendy Turnbull if Australia 6-1, 6-3 and McNeil rallied from a 1-5 first-set deficit to defeat Anne Hobbs of Britain 7-6, 6-3.

Also moving into the quarterfinals were no. 5 Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, who stopped fellow West German Sylvia Hanika 6-3, 6-1, and no. 10 Catrina Lindqvist of Sweden, who upset no. 6 Manuela Malteva of Bulgaria 6-3, 6-3.

In the men's singles, third-seed Yannick Noah of France, lauching his first serious assault on grass court tournaments, is moved into the fourth round with a marathon 7-6, 4-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory over American Bud Schulz. Noah will face another American, no. 14 Tim Wilkins, in the fourth round.

The Frenchman has previously avoided both the Australian Open

and Wimbledon, but recently proclaimed that he wants to do well on grass. He needed 3 1/2 hours to subdue Schulz.

Other men to advance to the fourth round early Sunday included New Zealander Kelly Everenden and Australian Mark Kratzmann, a former junior Wimbledon champion.

Everenden breezed past American Brad Pearce 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, while Kratzmann ousted American Davis Cup doubles expert Ken Flach 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Robert Segno of the United States — the 13th seed and Flach's doubles partner — earned a fourth-round meeting with defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden.

Segno, playing his first tournament after being sidelined for six months with a series of injuries to his left knee, defeated Argentine baseliner Javier Frana 6-3, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Shriver next will face Lindqvist, who beat her in this grass-court tournament in 1985.

"I was pretty much up for today's match and I like the way I'm heading," Shriver said after her victory over Durie, once ranked in the top 10 in the world.

Durie admitted being intimidated by Shriver's powerful service returns.

Lindqvist has reached the quarterfinals at both Wimbledon and the last Australian Open.

"I'm feeling much more comfortable on grass now," the blonde baseliner said. "Two years ago, I hated it."

He was saved by the bell but lasted only three more rounds to come of his stool at the

Graham stops Boston in WBA contender bout

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Britain's Herol "Bomber" Graham, the World Boxing Association's no. 1 middleweight contender, stopped Charlie Boston of New Jersey after seven rounds of a scheduled 10-round contest Saturday night and moved closer to a shot at the world title.

Graham took his unbeaten record to 38 fights, stretching back to July, 1978, as he handed out a boxing lesson to a game but ultimately outclassed opponent.

In front of 5,000 fans at Belfast's King's Hall, where former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan made his name, Graham shook off his reputation as a purely defensive fighter by mixing up attack and defence and scoring almost at will against the 25-year-old Boston.

Although he has had only 16 pro fights, Boston has sparred with many of the world's best boxers, including current undisputed middleweight champion, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran.

"I did not want to let him get in to the fight because I knew how dangerous he could be," said Graham, who now expects to fight later this year for at least one version of the middleweight crown after Hagler has defended against Leonard in April.

He was saved by the bell but

lasted only three more rounds to come of his stool at the

end of the seventh.

Boston, whose record slipped to 12 victories and four defeats, occasionally threatened the slippery Graham with right hooks.

But for the most part, he was outclassed, outboxed and outwitted by the supremely mobile Graham, who was characteristically awkward, elusive and hard to hit.

"My corner was telling to keep calm and calculated at all times because he was a durable opponent," said 22-year-old Graham, who comes from Shefield in Northern England.

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshon

The following report summarises trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Finance Corporation (merged with Halim Salhi and Sons Co.).

AMMAN — Last week the dollar slid to a record low in six years against the Deutschmark (DM), the Swiss franc (SF) and the Japanese yen. The dollar fell below 0.335 fils on the Jordanian dinar (JD) to reach a low of 0.335 fils.

Because the dollar had moved lower on the (JD), the demand for the dollar was high as the banks and financial companies in Amman sought to cover their short positions on the dollar/JD.

Charts indicate that the dollar may fall lower to around 0.3300 fils on the JD this week. The expected ranges for this week are to be 0.3300 to 0.345 fils.

Trading in European currencies

The pound sterling has hit a record high in ten months. It improved from a low of 0.5020 fils to 0.5300 fils. The improvement was in relation to higher North Sea oil prices which reached around \$19.50 a barrel.

The DM, SF and yen moved to record highs in six years in reaction to a weaker dollar and the White House refusal to intervene in favour of the declining dollar.

The DM traded between 0.175

to 0.185 fils, the SF traded

between 0.212 to 0.220 fils and

the yen between 0.00135 and

0.00145 fils.

Trading in the world metals

Gold moved higher from a low of \$405.50 an ounce to a high of \$420 an ounce. Silver improved to \$5.62 an ounce from a low of \$5.35 an ounce. Platinum gained around \$30 an ounce from \$220 to \$246 an ounce.

Charts indicate that gold should trade higher this week to around \$430 an ounce because of a weaker dollar and higher oil prices.

Trading in Arab currencies

The Lebanese lira (LL) traded quietly ranging between (250 to 235) to the JD because of the current calm political situation that has prevailed over last week.

Gold prices in Amman, based on the daily bulletin provided by the Jordan Jewelry Store are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD 3.850/JD 4.000

Gold per gramme 18 carats JD 3.300/JD 3.550

Soviet industrial performance shows positive trends despite deficiencies

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet industrial figures for 1986, released Saturday, showed a positive trend but "serious deficiencies" remained in the economy, the official TASS news agency said.

TASS, publishing data released by the Central Statistics Board, said industrial output was 4.9 per cent higher than 1985 figures and the gas and coal industries performed well.

But it cited shortcomings in production, particularly of electricity, largely because of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in April.

TASS did not publish electricity output figures, but the weekly *Ekonicheskaya Gazeta* said that about 2.7 billion kilowatt hours of electric energy were wasted in 1986.

In the agricultural sector, output increased by 5.1 per cent and the grain harvest was 210.1 million tonnes compared with 191.7 million tonnes in 1985.

Meat production was 17.7

million tonnes, up from 17.1 million, the figures showed. Milk production reached 101.1 million

tonnes compared with 98.2 million in 1985.

In its assessment of the economy, TASS said the "negative tendency" towards slow growth was overcome last year.

But it added: "In some areas of the economy, it (production) has remained slow ... unproductive production has continued, serious deficiencies remain in the range and quality of production and deliveries."

The 4.9 per cent increase in industrial output compared with a planned rise of 4.3 per cent and an increase of 3.9 per cent in 1985.

National income, the value of total output, increased by 4.1 per cent and stood at some 590 billion roubles (\$55.5 billion).

This compared with a targeted

3.9 per cent rise and a 3.1 per cent

increase the year before.

Gas production was some 14 billion cubic metres over the target of 672 billion cubic metres, the figures showed. Output the previous year reached 643 billion cubic metres.

TASS said coal production exceeded the 1986 target of 733.9 million tonnes by some 17 million

tonnes. The 1985 figure was 726 million tonnes.

Oil production, vital to the Soviet economy, improved sharply to some 615 million tonnes, short of the planned 616.7 million tonnes, but well above 1985 output of 595 million tonnes.

Oil provides about 60 per cent of the foreign exchange needed by Moscow in recent years to buy grain, high technology and industrial goods from the West.

The figures put the average monthly wage, taking into account social benefits, at 277 roubles.

Despite the improved coal figures, the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* Saturday said fuel production by the coal industry was already two million tonnes behind target this year because of the current cold snap.

Kremlin leaders have also expressed alarm at the effect the coldest January since 1950 is having on the economy and warned that failure to make adequate preparations for winter would reverse the economic momentum of 1986.

S. Korean contractors suffer major setback worldwide

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's overseas construction industry suffered a major setback in 1986, dropping one third of its workforce, construction ministry officials said last week.

A ministry official told Reuters new foreign orders won by South Korean construction firms halved from \$4.6 billion in 1985 to \$2.3 billion last year, the lowest level in 10 years.

The industry was once the country's number one source of foreign exchange but now it is an

ailing, debt-ridden sector," said the official, who asked not to be named.

He said the sector laid off more than 30,000 workers overseas in 1986, leaving a workforce of 60,000 against a peak of 170,000 in 1981.

A ministry spokesman said 11 of the 44 South Korean construction firms operating abroad this month gave up their licences to bid for foreign projects because of slack business, particularly in the Middle East.

Mr. Dahnberg, picked to restore the credibility of the troubled firm which is to be expelled Monday from Stockholm's stock exchange, resigned after lying to reporters about a discredited company document.

Mr. Dahnberg told a news conference last Friday he had not signed a company report which auditors say contained massive discrepancies, but later admitted in a statement he had supplied a signature which he knew was intended for use in the report.

Industrial sources said the resignation could not have come at a worse time for the biotech group, which is trying to shrug off a series of scandals that erupted last year under the leadership of Mr. Al Sayed, the company's founder.

The company started 1986 as the star bourse performer, with Mr. Al Sayed recently voted Swede of the year and one of the country's richest men.

But within weeks, a deal with carmaker Volvo to form a massive biotech group came undone after Mr. Al Sayed was forced to admit he had lied about his academic qualifications.

Last month, Mr. Al Sayed was forced to hand over a 46 per cent principal stake in Fermenta to his main creditor, investment firm Industriarden, which had taken the shares as security for a loan of \$7 million the Fermenta founder failed to repay.

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Aquino flies to Mindanao despite rumours of coup

MILF leader endorses ceasefire

COTABATO, Philippines (R) — President Corazon Aquino, dismissing reports of a new military plot against her, returned to tortured Mindanao Sunday and met with Muslim rebels, who gave her a position paper, their trust and a flower.

Troops checked cars and houses entering the town while helicopters and fighter planes flew overhead as Mrs. Aquino made the most risky stop of a six-city tour of Mindanao Island. She defied military advice and briefly addressed an open-air rally in her campaign for ratification of a new constitution.

Mrs. Aquino spent the night in a tense Manila with hundreds of troops mobilised to protect the presidential palace after warnings that a military splinter group planned to topple her before the Feb. 2 constitutional vote.

Mrs. Aquino denied there was trouble in Manila.

Asked about the full military alert that was ordered she said: "It was nothing. I spoke to General (Fidel) Ramos this morning." Gen. Ramos is the country's armed forces chief.

Mrs. Aquino told 4,000 people at the open-air rally that the country should value peace more than anything.

She met Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chief of

staff Haji Murad for 10 minutes, asking him to come to Manila for peace talks.

The Cotabato area has been a centre of Muslim rebel attacks this week as the MILF went on a rampage that has claimed almost 60 lives to protest the Aquino visit and its absence from peace talks the government is holding with a larger Muslim rebel group.

Murad, who agreed to a temporary ceasefire, told reporters: "We presented her with a flower as a symbol of peace and gave her our position paper. We are pinning our hopes on her."

He said he was waiting word from the group's exiled leader before deciding whether the ceasefire should continue and whether he should go to Manila for talks.

The MILF is seeking autonomy for Mindanao, the second largest Philippine island, which has a long history of Muslim-Christian clashes.

In Jeddah, the leader of MILF, Salamat Hashim, has endorsed a ceasefire reached between Murad

and the Philippines government, but said "it is only of temporary nature," the Saudi Gazette newspaper reported Sunday.

"The agreement indicates that our doors are open for negotiations. But the initiative should come from the government," Hashim told the newspaper from his home in Mecca.

A long-term agreement would be possible only when the government accepted four MILF demands, he said. Among these were that lands taken by "Christian settlers" from the north be returned to Muslims and that resources in the region be used only for the benefit of the local people.

He also demanded that the law of Mindanao be based on Sharia (Islamic Law) and that the security force for the region be made up of people who have been fighting for local autonomy.

The MILF earlier refused to enter into an agreement between the Philippines government and the rival Moro National Liberation Front giving autonomy to the southern region of the southern Philippines.

Hashim said he would be willing to hold talks only under the auspices of the World Muslim League or the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Sri Lankan troops kill 6 Tamil rebels in clash

COLOMBO (R) — Six Tamil separatist guerrillas were killed in fierce eight-hour battle between troops and the most powerful rebel group in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district, the government said Sunday.

It said a military officer and 11 rebels, including their local leader, called Indiran Master, were wounded in the fighting Saturday at Elephant Pass.

The government said the battle was triggered when rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) opened fire at an air force helicopter that was landing at a military camp at Elephant Pass.

Elephant Pass is a narrow strip of land linking the rebel stronghold of Jaffna with the mainland. Troops from the base have set up road-blocks at Elephant Pass to check all traffic between the Jaffna peninsula and the mainland.

Bologna bombing trial starts today

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — The trial of 20 people charged in connection with the 1980 Bologna Railway Station bombing, Europe's worst terrorist act since World War II, opens Monday.

It is regarded as an important judicial assault on the murky world of Italian right-wing violence.

Eighty-five people were killed and 200 injured when a bomb exploded at 10:25 a.m. on Aug. 2, 1980, in a waiting room packed with holiday travellers.

Three bunkers and a house occupied by the LTTE rebels were destroyed as a military unit moved more than 100 civilians living in the area to safety.

A large cache of arms and equipment including mortar bombs, rifles and grenades were recovered.

Jaffna residents said the LTTE headquarters there had said six of its fighters died in the battle.

Junejo blames terrorists for violence in Pakistan

KARACHI (R) — Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has suggested that terrorists were involved in ethnic riots that have killed more than 200 people in Karachi over the past two months.

The Pakistani news agency APP Saturday night quoted him as saying the recurrence of disturbances indicated terrorist activity aimed at creating public dissatisfaction and panic.

Mr. Junejo was briefing newspaper editors and media chiefs three days into a personal peace mission in south Pakistan. He appealed to them to project the news about ethnic disturbances in a "balance" and "non-provocative" manner.

The violence flared when Pashtuns from the country's north-west and Afghanistan attacked Mohajirs, who migrated

from other parts of former British India at independence in 1947. At least 186 people were killed.

A savage triple murder sparked off fresh disturbances last week in which another 15 people were killed.

"I cannot believe that it was an accident," Mr. Junejo said.

Pakistan's military-led government has previously accused "subversive" elements of being behind the clashes and officials have alleged that a "foreign hand" was involved.

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, and the nearby city of Hyderabad were relatively calm Saturday, police said.

Railway authorities said Sunday armed men stopped a train and seized valuables from passengers near Sann, 240 kilometres from Karachi, in Sind province.

The remaining defendants face charges ranging from conspiracy to commit multiple homicide to membership of an armed gang.

The indictment, more than 1,000 pages long, says: "An invisible power (structure) was built linked to organised crime and terrorism, to political-military circles, to the secret service... that was able to become a real state within the state."

Mr. Febres Cordero, said Saturday in his first news conference since his abduction, that he had suffered "a few blows" during his detention at the Taura base, though he did not explain where or how he had been hurt.

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The banned edition carried a banner headline, saying "the constitution permits newspapers."

An editorial said: "La Prensa, now as yesterday, maintains its support for all initiatives which keep our country far from two undesirable extremes predicted for Nicaragua: Foreign military intervention or consolidation of a regime that is against all the national ideals of freedom, justice and democracy. We are not for one nor for the other."

You cannot play in more than one suit. Once your side has found a major-suit fit, don't give the opponents free information. It can only help them.

North's high-level cue-bid is the standard way to show a powerful two-suiter that is interested in more than game. Had South responded in clubs, North intended to bid hearts, thereby showing a

two-suiter in the majors. When South could bid spades freely at the five-level, it required more restraint than we could muster for North to bid only six spades—we would have blasted into the grand slam and probably would have made it.

North's bid decision not to defend seven diamonds doubled under the circumstances could be classified as laudatory. We don't know what made North bid seven hearts. It certainly was informative: unfortunately, it was the defenders who benefited from it. After South corrected to seven spades, East made a Lightner double, requesting the lead of the suit bid by dummy. West duly obliged and the grand slam suffered the indignity of going down at the very first trick.

Had North not bothered to show his hearts, East probably would still have made a lead-inhibiting double of seven spades in an effort to steer his partner to the heart lead that would defeat the slam.

While West would know that his partner did not want a diamond lead, he would have to guess whether it was a club or a heart that his partner wanted led. If he went by the length he held in those suits, he would have led a club, and declarer would have landed a doubled grand slam instead of going down.

Managua refuses to allow publication of opposition daily

China attacks sacked writer

PEKING (R) — China Sunday

spelled out the offences of a well-known liberal writer who Western diplomats said was linked to last week's downfall of Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang.

The People's Daily carried a long analysis of why Wang Ruowang, a veteran Communist writer, was expelled from the party last Wednesday, two days before Mr. Hu's shock resignation.

A Western diplomat said Wang

contributed to the fall of China's second most powerful leader because Hu went to Shanghai last November to curb the writer's activities but did not expel him from the party as demanded by Marxist hardliners in the leadership.

The paper quoted Wang as

saying that the United States was

more democratic than China, that

Peking should import capitalist

theory, ideology, science and that

it should also adopt a multi-party

system.

"We are confused about socialist ideas. Some are based on empty socialist theory and many are false," Wang said.

The paper said Wang opposed

party policies and vilified the

leadership in a bid to get rid of it.

It said that no party in capitalist countries represented the interests of the workers with Western multi-party systems controlled by factions of the capitalist class.

"Without the leadership of the (Communist) Party, China would become a heap of loose sand," the paper said.

The article made no mention of Mr. Hu or other official publications also kept silent on why he resigned.

The diplomat said Mr. Hu erred in not limiting the area of public debate and discussion, leaving Wang and other intellectuals free to express unorthodox ideas.

The diplomat said student protests last month gave conservatives in the leadership, angry over a debate they regarded as attacks on party leadership and Marxist orthodoxy, the opportunity to unseat Mr. Hu.

In a bid to reassure intellectuals there was a place for them in the country's life, official newspapers published remarks by Vice Premier Li Peng, in which he said the party continued to cherish and trust intellectuals, whom it regarded as part of the working class and masters of the country.

They include Licio Gelli, fugitive grandmaster of the secret P2 Masonic Lodge, former P2 Masonic Lodge, former high-ranking military intelligence officers Gen. Piero Musumeci and Col. Giuseppe Belmonte, and right-wing extremist Stefano Delle Chiaie.

Former service agent Francesco Pazzina, who was extradited from the United States last June, has also been charged separately with subversive associations. Prosecutors are likely to try to combine his trial with that of the other accused.

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Managua refuses to allow publication of opposition daily

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) —

The Sandinista government refused to allow the opposition newspaper La Prensa to resume publication under the new constitution, one of the owners has said.

Co-owner Violeta Chamorro showed the Associated Press a dummy copy of the newspaper she submitted to the government censor's office Friday. She said La Prensa was prepared to publish

thousands of its editions that day.

The government closed La Prensa indefinitely on June 26 after the U.S. Congress approved \$100 million in aid for contra rebels, requesting the lead of the suit bid by dummy. West duly obliged and the grand slam suffered the indignity of going down at the very first trick.

In a letter to the La Prensa owners, government censor Raul Cordon of the Interior Ministry forbade the newspaper to circulate.

A woman answering the telephone at Cordon's office Saturday said he was not there and that nobody else was authorised to comment. She hung up when asked her name.

Managua to hear contra radio

Meanwhile a new clandestine contra radio station can be heard on AM in the capital, Managua, and elsewhere in Nicaragua.

Punjab police arrest 6 in Golden Temple complex

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Police and paramilitary troops entered the Golden Temple complex was two months ago during the elections to select managers for Sikh shrines in the state.

Ribeiro said the latest search was carried out on information that two wanted extremists were being held and tortured by a group in the living quarters.

Police said they seized three firearms during the search in which 150 men from the state police and the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force participated.

In June, 1984, army troops stormed the Golden Temple complex to flush out extremists hiding there. Nearly 1,000 people died in the action.

Extremists have been carrying out a violent campaign in the northern border state for a separate Sikh homeland.

Uganda's child soldiers return to school today

KAMPALA (R) — Monday is

back-to-school day for hundreds

of Ugandan child soldiers who

inrupted their informal education

to take up arms and fight in

President Yoweri Museveni's

National Resistance Army (NRA).

The children, known locally by

the colloquial Swahili word

Bakadogo (little ones), have

received their demobilisation

orders from NRA headquarters

after up to five years of guerrilla

war against the government of

deposed President Milton Obote.

An NRA spokesman in Kampala said the youngsters, some of them under 10 years old, should put aside their guns and report to one of two special military academies to resume formal schooling.

It said that no party in capitalist

countries represented the

interests of the workers with

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